

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL
August 8, 2019 MINUTES

MINUTES – 8/08/2019

Attendance: Maureen Bates, Howard Lesser, Rene Berthiaume, Ricky Shimokawa,
Art Cabanilla, Dustin Park, Jodi Asato, Annette Tashiro, Gregg VanCamp

Via phone/video: Lanelle Yamane, Terry Ann Moses, Michele Ku,

Absent: Christina Pascua, Bernadette Howard

Michele Ku– SRC Chair, called meeting to order at 10:19am.

Review of Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes – June 28, 2019
- 2) SRC Partner Council Report
- 3) State Rehab Council Standing Committee Reports

Hearing no objections, consent agenda approved by general consent.

Council Report – Legislative Committee, Verbal, Renee Berthiaume

The legislative committee will be planning on a few legislative initiatives when session resumes in January 2020. 1) The 1st initiative is at the state level which would be to reintroduce the bill that would give a preference to any employer that hires individuals with disabilities state (state or county), bidding preference which would give them a better chance of obtaining a contract with a sliding scale; 5% preference if they hire an individual with disability, 10 % for 2 individuals hired with disabilities, and up to 15% for 3 or more individuals hired with disabilities. This would be straight competitive employment.

Michele interjected by adding that once the committee assignments have been completed, that the legislative committee meet and get input from the rest of the SRC members as well as Maureen, to determine what our initiatives will be for the upcoming legislative session.

The 2nd initiative is at the federal level, 14c. The bill has not move and it looks like no decisions will be made for at least another couple of years. The federal Department of Labor and employment training service has created a task force called disability and employment learning task force. They're looking for between 20 and 30 volunteers to serve on that program from people that have participated in WIOA, VR, SRC's in various states. The group meets monthly via telephone. Rene has applied to volunteer for this task force.

Maureen has given Rene the contact information for Daintry at DD council to see what bills they will be introducing as well.

Rene also reported that he is working with national coalition for State Rehab Councils. Howard asked Rene if he was representing Hawaii SRC. Howard suggested that Rene should check with Michele and let her know if he is going to be representing Hawaii and what that may entail. Michele suggested that we establish or re-establish our legislative committee, then the committee can determine how it best communicate with various stakeholders.

Maureen Bates – DVR Administrator

Status of Order of Selection – DVR has taken 5 individuals from the deferred list in July and have contacted them. One has been scheduled for IPE and will be getting started. Other four individuals are still trying to be contacted. Majority reside in Maui, Molokai, and the Big Island. DVR will be taking 50 off the deferred list in August. DVR will continue to keep SRC updated on their progress to getting the IPEs in place for these 55 individuals. As of today, August 8, 2019, there are 800 individuals on the deferred list. Year to date, there are 413 new applicants during the duration of October 1, 2018 to August 8, 2019.

Out of the 800 on the deferred list, 495 are in category 1 (most significant disabled, msd). This is the group we are approaching first to bring off the deferred list. We will take them off the deferred list in order of the date that they apply. In category 2, there are 291 significant disability eligible individuals waiting for services. Our employment outcomes currently have 206 individuals employed. Relative to last year, at the same time, there was 192 individuals employed.

As mentioned in the last SRC meeting, DVR pulls their unemployment insurance data on a quarterly basis and identified 3,700 of our active clients were closed clients or deferred list clients, total of the 5,000 DVR is servicing, 3,700 have employment. They are on the unemployment insurance records as having a job. In the 1st quarter (Jan – Mar), they earned over \$15 million. Contributed minimum \$1.8 million in state taxes.

Some of the top hourly wages of these rehabilitations include: 1) professional athletes, \$60.10 p/hr working for 40 hours of work; 2) self-employed therapist, \$60.00 p/hr working 40 hours of work; 3) self-employed massage therapist, \$40.38 p/hr at 40 hours of work; 4) massage therapist, \$40.00 p/hr, 10 hours p/wk; 5) construction manager, \$40.00 p/hr working 40 hours p/wk. There are only 221 out of 3,700 that are current in the database system. DVR is working to fix the data capturing skills in August. DVR is mandated to track their measurable skills gains under WIOA and accountable standards. In FY 2018, 41 individuals were captured as having measurable skills gains. Measurable skills gains are associated with all the monies were spending to send people to college and post-secondary education, vocational, and certification. 541 individuals are being captured in our database right now. The federal requirement for reporting is to capture 1,000 of these individuals.

For FY 2020 we are prepared to pay the \$2 million penalty after RSA visited us in June. We identified 2 million in over expenditures that basically require us to pay maintenance of effort penalty, July 2020 and July 2021. We do not know when RSA is going to assess us the penalty and if it will all need to be paid in July 2020 or extend over 2 years. We have a carry forward amount of a \$1 million to offset that payment in July 2020 and/or July 2021. DVR will be asking for allotment or \$885,000.00.

Howard asked about the RSA review and when would DVR know the results in addition to how will SRC be able to access the information. Maureen responded that RSA will deliver a report of their findings and DVR has 21 days to agree, disagree, provide additional information to resolve anything that is in disagreement. DVR will then have a period of time to write that final report. RSA will then return the report to DVR which they will have 9 months to make corrective action. Hearing from other states about their process from years past, it sounds like it takes a significant amount of time.

Maureen also added the following comments:

- 1) DVR will be advocating through the DHS system during the 2020 legislative session, to get the Attorney General forms accessible.
- 2) Increase on the cap (\$1.3 million) associated with the Randolph Sheppard budget for anticipated or planned renovations of some blind vendor facilities.
- 3) Selective placement under City & County positions. Under the selective placement act 111, DVR noticed that the exempt positions don't encourage individuals with disabilities to apply because they never get to be Civil Service. They don't have the same equitable benefits and opportunities after they've passed their probationary period. DVR will be advocating during the next legislative session with DHRS to make a change. Although DVR cannot change the act, they will advocate to submit a bill to help DHRD make the change.
- 4) DVR has revisited their hiring practice to align to the state plan, retain VRS counselors at master's degree level with a rehabilitation counseling degree or vocational rehabilitation. DVR has met with human resource and DHRD to revisit the documentation and its currently being reviewed with the union. DVR has modified the requirements for any new hires to not only have the degree but obtain the certification. In the past, they only had to be eligible to sit for the certification exam. Everyone needs to participate in continuing education during work activities to get their best practices sustained and consistent across all divisions or branches.
- 5) Suggestion that SRC look into the funding needs for the independent living community statewide as the CILs are underfunded. Also suggested that the State should fund the independent living community as opposed through DVR. DVR certainly may end up being the gatekeeper or passing the funding through, the independent living community needs to be advocating for the dollars to be allocated directly to them because its 12,000 non- DVR client or individuals with disabilities.

10 Minute Break: 11:13 – 11:24am

Meeting reconvenes at 11:24am.

Old Business: Select Standing Committee Members

- 1) Executive Committee: Michele (Chair), Howard (V. Chair), Jodi (Secretary)
- 2) Legislative Committee: Renee (Chair), Howard, Lanelle, Art, Michele
- 3) Membership Committee: Art (Chair), Howard, Rene, Jodi
- 4) Needs Assessments Committee: Howard (Chair), Michele, Jodi, Christina
- 5) Policy & Procedures Committee: Lanelle (Chair), Terry Ann, Dustin, Michele, Maureen

6) State Plan Committee: Michele, Howard, Bernadette (possible)

New Business:

- 1) SRC Response to RSA – Deadline to respond is September 15, 2019; Michele will send the questions out to everyone for input. Please send your responses to Michele so that she can consolidate the inputs and email RSA by September 15th.

- 2) SRC Membership Recruitment – 1) One of the areas the was in need is Maui; We have an interested applicant, Nani Watanabe who is working on her application and resume. We also need a representative from the Big Island, and a representative from the deaf and hard of hearing community. Maureen suggested that the comprehensive deaf center through the UH Center for Disabilities Studies (possible contacts - Jennifer Tarnay or Roz Kia). If any members have other interested applicants, please send Art or Jodi the information so that they can send an email with the instructions for applying.

- 3) Future Meeting Structures – We will keep the next meeting time the same for 10:00 – 2:00pm. However, Michele asked Gregg to put this back on the agenda for old business to possibly change the time for 9:00 – 1:00pm.

- 4) Future SRC Goals – Maureen emphasized that she wants to collaborate with the SRC in the following: a) barriers to entering the workforce (ie. Benefits); b) less work hours; c) independent living community support

- 5) NCSRC / CSAVR Fall Conference – Maureen will be attending this conference in October (Jacksonville, FL)

15 Minute Break: 12:40 – 12:55pm

Meeting resumes at 1:00pm. Yoko from the Pacific Basin Rehabilitation Research and Training Center came to present on the Consumer Satisfaction Report. Please refer to presentation materials that were presented and handed out.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06pm. Next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2019.